

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00279 031217Z

44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /057 W

----- 025609

R 031033Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6025

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LA

SUBJECT: INCIDENTS IN VIENTIANE AREA

1. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED ON TWO VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN THE VIENTIANE AREA IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. THE FIRST, ACCORDING TO VIENTIANE'S POLICE CHIEF, SIMUONG DOUANGKEO, TOOK PLACE THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 29/30 WHEN THE POLICE INTERCEPTED "THIEVES" AT BAN THAKKEK, MUONG SAYFONG, VIENTIANE PROVINCE, TRYING TO FERRY FOUR MOTORCYCLES ACROSS THE MEKONG TO THAILAND. THE "THIEVES" TRIED TO FLEE. THE POLICE FIRED AND FOUR WERE KILLED, WHILE THREE OTHERS, WHO WERE WOUNDED, DISAPPEARED IN THE MEKONG.

2. THE OTHER INCIDENT, ALSO ACCORDING TO SIMUONG, TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE THE VIENGRATRY RESTAURANT ON KHOUN-  
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00279 031217Z

BOULOM STREET IN VIENTIANE AT 2245 ON FEBRUARY 1.

SOMEONE THREW A GRENADE WHICH WOUNDED THREE PASSERS-BY. THE GRENADE-THROWER FLED AND THE POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR HIM. ACCORDING TO OTHER LOCAL SOURCES, THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE AT A MILITIA CHECKPOINT OUTSIDE THE VIENGRATRY WHERE MILITIAMEN WERE SEARCHING PEDESTRIANS. ONE MAN REFUSED TO BE SEARCHED, PRODUCED A GRENADE, THREW IT AND THEN FLED. SINCE VIENTIANE'S VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE COMMUNITIES ARE NOW CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, THERE ARE MANY MORE PEOPLE ON THE STREETS AT NIGHT THAN NORMALLY.

3. COMMENT: NEITHER OF THESE INCIDENTS IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IN ITSELF, BUT THEY INDICATE THAT THE LAO COMMUNISTS HAVE A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE TO GO BEFORE THEY ESTABLISH THE KIND OF SECURITY CONTROL THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IN THE VIENTIANE AREA. THE FACT THAT THE POLICE SHOULDN'T MAKE THEM PUBLIC IS ALSO INTERESTING, SINCE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MORE SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. THE INTENT MAY HAVE BEEN TO GET ON THE RECORD OFFICIAL VERSIONS OF WIDELY KNOWN EVENTS THAT OTHERWISE MIGHT BECOME SUBJECTS OF EXAGGERATED LOCAL RUMOR. EXAGGERATION BY THE BANGKOK PRESS IS LIKELY IN ANY EVENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Film Number:** D760040-0597  
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